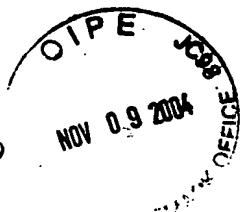


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Teppei Shoji et al.

Serial No.: 09/963,666

Group Art Unit: 2661

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATUS INQUIRY LETTER

Sir:

Please indicate the status of the above-identified application, including an indication as to when the next Patent Office communication may be expected.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 11/9/04

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